

CHATTANOOGA NEWS

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The Nashville Banner draws the line at thriftless days.

A southern newspaper thinks corn bread is better than war bread.

American troops are holding part of the actual front. Holding, you observe, is the word used.

Mayor Hylan feels that he has already earned a vacation and will go to Florida to rest.

An exchange suggests that the time to be saved by turning up the clock is purely psychological.

In her efforts to destroy enemy shipping, Germany has neglected to replenish her own losses by the war.

Notwithstanding the Hun and the weatherman have done their worst, British losses show a decrease.

It is intimated that recent winter weather has proved an effective check upon negro emigration to the north.

The Jacksonville Times Union is of opinion that it ought not require a tax to keep immigrants out of Mexico.

The Columbia Herald comes to us enlarged and decidedly improved. Congratulations to our enterprising contemporary.

Mardi Gras festivals, spring poets and spring candidates are among the unavoidable afflictions of the change of seasons.

It is well enough to fix the blame, even at this late date, for the Halifax explosion, since it wasn't fixed in time to prevent it.

As a choice between going back to his job and being shot, we don't blame the German workman for choosing the former. Do you?

"Stop killing calves, lambs and sheep," remarks a headline. Good advice but then you know we have to have something to eat.

The bolsheviks do not seem to have made many friends among the nations, but they have incubated an idea that goes marching on.

The "willful" senators haven't told us how much faster they could build ships, which seems to be the uppermost question just now.

DeKub county, Alabama, has assessed 1430 dogs for taxation. The aggregate value was not stated. Nor was the number of sheep in the county.

Australia is also beset with a shortage of shipping. The country has wheat to spare, but no means of getting it to where it is so badly needed.

We believe, now that our troops are actually at the front, a manifest advantage would be achieved by the transfer of hostilities from Washington to France.

The Arkansas supreme court holds that a little liquor for the stomach's sake may be imported into that state. This may be a means of stimulating immigration.

An exchange says that the Canadians went into battle after three months and kept the Germans out of Calais and Boulogne. It thinks our troops ought to do as well, but that no troops could do better.

A report seems to have gained currency that Senator Stone was engaged in a scheme to foment strikes in Germany. It hasn't been long since Senator Stone was denounced as one of Germany's best friends.

Turkey is considering the building of a bridge across the Bosphorus to unite Europe and Asia. Turkey, itself, however, furnishes a bond between the two continents which we should be very glad to see severed.

The Security league is said to have closed its Chicago meeting with a meatless, wheatless and sweetless banquet, but it is not known whether Dr. Garfield sets a patriotic example in the observation of heatless Mondays.

When the commander of Camp Devens, near Ayer, Mass., declared no soldier would be permitted to enter the town if it remained "wet," it was promptly voted "dry." Personal liberty seems about to perish from the earth.

Dayton, our neighbor up the road, is to be congratulated on the evidence which it manifests of renewed industrial life. Reorganization of the Dayton Coal & Iron company will add distinctively to the little city's prosperity.

SPREAD OF DEMOCRACY.

While it would make no indeterminate truce with German militarism, the New York Evening Post hopes for an early and successful peace. Moreover, it is one of the keenest observers among American newspapers. Discussing current signs of the times the other day, the Post declared:

"Reports from Germany are as heartening as any one could wish, short of the actual collapse of the Hohenzollern regime. Plainly, the country is in a ferment, and the newspapers are beginning to speak out and the people to protest. Nothing is more significant than the fact that the strikers are openly demanding peace and peace without annexations and indemnities, precisely as if they were speaking for the bolsheviks. The Russian germ has plainly found lodging in the German body politic. That the great Von Hindenburg has had to appeal by placards on every street corner to the workmen to go back to work and support their brothers in the trenches, vividly illustrates the gravity of the situation. This has never been the tone of the haughty Prussian militarists. They have usually ordered the canaille to come to heel and cracked the lash over them. When, in 1913, 100,000 Berliners, men and women, met on May 1 to demand a reform of the Prussian franchise, soldiers and gendarmes ruthlessly plunged into the crowd and dispersed it with the flats of their sabres. Today everything is different; even the Kaiser finds it necessary to bewail the sufferings of the masses, and the socialists are talking defiantly to their masters. Revolution is in the air."

It is encouraging that the mighty Hindenburg should lay aside the saber, even temporarily, to engage in a literary propaganda. It has been the custom to protest of workmen in much the same way as enemies from other nations—with the sword and the bayonet. We may hardly expect this habit to be voluntarily abandoned. But the fact that workmen, knowing the probable response, have the hardihood to demand peace, and to be represented in preliminary peace negotiations, is significant.

Democracy seems to be gradually percolating into the dark and benighted portions of the earth. And when the international democrat takes stock of himself he finds little to quarrel with his brother of some other country about. Paraphrasing Sut Lovinood, the spread of democracy may be a little rough on kings, but it is just the making of the workers and common folks.

GREATER PUBLICITY.

The following observation from the Springfield Republican, one of the same newspapers of the country, discloses a tendency which is gratifying to friends of democracy:

"The administration is plainly loosening up in publicity matters. There is to be less secrecy. Details of war preparation hitherto jealously guarded are being freely disclosed. The censorship of newspaper correspondents at the army cantonments is to be abolished. There may well be more information given the public concerning the army in France. Military men have let their fear lest the Germans find out something or other cloy the censorship to absurd extremes."

Much the same sort of situation as has prevailed here for some time in the war. But the people and newspapers of England insisted upon knowing what their government was doing, and won their point. True, all restrictions were not removed, but much greater publicity was allowed.

Attempts at veiling the handling of governmental matters in a time of war are, of course, intended to blind the enemy, but they nearly always create suspicions and exaggerations among the home people while the enemy usually gets such information as he wants. The disorganization and lack of understanding which are caused are more damaging than would be such information as might reach the enemy from a fuller publicity.

American newspapers are loyal. They refrain from publication of news when the government so requests. But their profession and training give them a lively appreciation of the dangers of suppression. They are evangelists of publicity which they believe makes for the education of the masses. Let the people know what is being done.

OUT OF OUR REACH.

"German measles" has been wiped off the sanitary records of Camp Dix and "liberty measles" substituted. Hanged if we can grasp the psychology of it.

If the measles were not ruthless, if there were a single feature of liberty about it, we could see into it, but the opposite is the fact. Such a low-down, contrary, ferocious malady as the measles is properly named German. And why pollute the term "liberty" by such association? Gee! If the Old Boy were called "German devil," we wouldn't name him "liberty devil" in order to take a crack at the Kaiser, would we?

Candidates for congress are wheeling into line with platforms upon which they propose to save the country. Thus far little has been said about exemption of congressmen's salaries and mileage, but they will probably get around to these after a while.

It was stated in the senate that the president and secretary of war do not know the situation because people with complaints go to senators and congressmen. Then why do not the same senators and congressmen take the information where it belongs? Would the people be any more communicative with a superman war board?

OF DOUBTFUL VALUE.

Ordinarily such an announcement as that made at Paris by the war council of governments associated in the war against the central powers would not offer the slightest ground for criticism. It is the determined purpose, of course, of everyone of the nations thus allied to prosecute the war to a just peace. This perhaps cannot be said too often or with sufficient emphasis.

But right at the moment when this note was given out the German peoples for the first time since the war began were showing some independence of the military class, and there were hopes based on incidents in Germany and Austria that the docile servility to discipline which had held the masses in those countries and along with them all others in the treadmill of suffering was likely to be displayed no longer.

All who have observed the European war carefully now realize how important such a political movement will prove, exceeding any other, indeed, in relative value to the allied cause and that of permanent peace.

Now, will not the pronouncement issued at Paris be used by the junkers to force their peoples back into the harness? So previous declarations by the allies for the dismemberment of Germany or Austria, the pulling down of their governments has been taken. It is but human nature that such should be the case.

Unfortunately, therefore, we may see as a result of this declaration a subsidence of the strikes and the movement against the governments which seemed so likely to fructify into results fraught with benefit to the world.

At the same moment come the utterances of Senator Hitchcock, which, if anything, are more of an attack on Secretary Baker and the administration than were the remarks of Senator Chamberlain. He terms the secretary's claims "preposterous," charges that the president is as ignorant of the situation as a "king surrounded by a court."

According to the Nebraska senator, we have not the ships with which to make effective war and are not getting them. He speaks of two million tons of goods being piled up on the wharves at New York and of the inability of the railroads to move freight, and of the failure of the fuel and food orders to benefit the situation.

If this is true, would it not have been the policy of discretion for the senator to keep quiet about it, and if the allied council at Paris knew this, was not its deft issued at an inopportune time?

The war must be brought to a close some time. We prefer to look with hope from the accessions which the German peoples may give toward the restoration of a rule of moderation among their people. The president has appealed to them. They did not at first heed his voice. They were inclined to be angry that he sought to sever them from their false gods. But they have recently had the scales fall from their eyes. Thinking they were waging a war of self-defense, they found, as soon as their representatives expressed themselves at the peace table, that conquest was their aim.

It is perhaps about equally to be regretted that the military council threatened and at the same time Senator Hitchcock admitted the handicaps which would delay our exercise of full force.

At a time when both the president and Lloyd George were making efforts to weaken Germany's morale, such expressions are of doubtful value.

NEW WORD—"PIKERISM."

While the rest of us are sending our sons and brothers to battle, knitting socks for soldiers, buying liberty bonds, and saving food and fuel, listen to the sort of pap that big business is being fed up on. The following quotation is from an article by C. W. Barron, editor and publisher of the Wall Street Journal and the Boston News Bureau, financial papers with a wide circulation in their chosen field and a large influence with other financial editors all over the country:

"Whether incipient socialism, slackness, or German propaganda is responsible for the demand for the conservation of wealth to fight the war is immaterial, the demand is in the interests of the three suspects and helps their designs."

How sensitive is the pocketbook nerve, after all! How the dollars do howl when they live! The words quoted are a perfect illustration of the ancient fallacy that wealth is more sacred than human life—to those who have it.

We have been at war for nine months now, and we have learned at least one thing—that while camouflage has its uses on the battlefield, the service of private interests and the protection of private bank accounts is not one of them. We have learned that true patriotism does not consist in calling names to bear out old grudges and in waving the flag as a matter of exercise, but that it means constructive service and cheerful sacrifice.

The fact is that the transparent and surprisingly unintelligent efforts in the camouflage line by the doughty Barron are the occasion for the coinage of a new word to go along with "slackerism" and "pro-Germanism"—the word "pikerism." They are like a boomerang that acts, and then re-acts.

It is not reassuring to hear a continuance of harping on "centralization" from democratic senators like Chamberlain and Hitchcock. The centralizing has probably gone too far already. The ripper bill would merely provide a different personnel—or would attempt to—which can easily be accomplished without legislation. Members of the cabinet co-ordinate in the president. If any of them is incompetent, he should be impeached or his resignation demanded. There is no occasion for burning the house because pigs sleep under it.

AS OTHERS SEE THEM.

We read in the news dispatches the other day about a more or less mysterious meeting in Alabama of some of those who take their booze and their democracy straight. The purpose of this assembly, so far as it could be ascertained, was to put the country in a state of preparation for defense against the oncoming drive of national prohibition, but it was not the purpose to include the proletariat—not yet. The spoils were not yet ready for division. It was expected that the "groundlings," as the Chattanooga morning paper would call them, would wait until they were invited. But those on the outside couldn't understand why democracy should be such an exclusive affair, and mutterings have been heard. The Birmingham Ledger, which viewed the gathering from afar, perpetrates the following insinuating references to it:

"Cherished principles of Jeffersonian democracy were rigidly analyzed by a select gathering of super-democrats 'from all parts of Alabama' in a carefully guarded conference at Montgomery last Thursday. Every precaution seems to have been taken to limit admittance to specially chosen ones claiming to be of the simon pure type. It was a private exhibition, a privilege denied ordinary, vulgar champions of states rights."

"Among those turned away from the door of the council chamber were candidates, ex-candidates and probable candidates who admittedly are itching for a whack at would-be despoilers of the sacred, stand-pat constitution."

"Several wheel-horses of unadulterated democracy who have stood by and fought for 'unfettered and untrammelled' principles a generation, more or less, applied for admittance, but were refused because they did not have special credentials, affidavits, labels, et cetera, could not correctly give the countersign, or something or other. They expressed astonishment that their eligibility should be questioned, or that they did not come within the scope of the elect."

"The picked democrats, after a mysterious conference, during which the fate of Alabama was satisfactorily sealed by the adoption of pungent resolutions, consented to admit some of the alleged unorthodox or non-conformists, but they felt so hurt that they exclaimed, reproachfully, 'Too late! Too late!' They intimated some dire possibilities following discussion by a selected group of the momentous topic of autonomy and self-determination for those who hold various and sundry views on the use of liquor, and they expressed misgivings that such a conference should be closed to all save a few self-appointed guardians of the constitution."

"So there has come a breach in the ranks of those who are inclined to confound and confuse democracy with grog. If the state democratic committee declines to accept orders from the Maximalist branch of the pro-liquor and anti-women organization, then the committee must suffer the dire consequences."

"Specially chosen members of the closed-door policy have proposed a convention for re-statement of the established principles, whatever they be as an element in a lively fight on the liquor question, and voters fond of fireworks are wondering whether the Minimalists will be allowed to break in at that meeting."

So it would seem that a schism has already appeared in the ranks of those who would make Alabama safe for booze, which may widen or not as the campaign progresses. It appears that those who do the voting want to know something of what goes on among the bottle-holders. They may want to balk unless let in on the game."

Seriously speaking, there doesn't seem to be anything in the Alabama situation to cause uneasiness among those who favor the ratification of the amendment. The more ridiculous the opposition makes itself, the easier the fight ought to be for bringing Alabama into line."

SWISS OPINION ON APPROACH OF PEACE

(Chas. H. Grasty in New York Times.) Among the influences thus hopeful is the pro-ally Journal de Geneve. The substance of a recent editorial is worth citing.

The Journal de Geneve, declares that the peace needs to ripen, the fruit is formed. It thinks statesmen can interchange views without accusing each other of bad faith. The language must be more or less different so as to concord differences not clear at first glance. If such a broad view prevails it will supply a condition for a fruitful interchange between the belligerents.

The Journal de Geneve bases its comment upon the Wilsonian program, remarking that the fourteen articles divide themselves into three general heads, viz.: Five setting up theoretical principles, five dealing especially with Germany, and four with the allies. On the principles the Journal de Geneve thinks there is already agreement, with some measure of reserve about methods.

President Wilson has anticipated the suppression of the diplomatic secrets and economic barriers, freedom of the seas, the reduction of armaments and a league of nations. "These principles may be considered as recognized and a cornerstone for the future treaty."

The Journal de Geneve accepts in good faith the announcement of Jan. 11 that an Austro-German accord has been reached by which the two empires have pledged mutual support on all matters particularly affecting each other. The two speeches have furnished indirect information of this agreement, Herling deferring from any commitment on the Wilsonian program concerning Austria-Hungary, and Czermin being noncommittal regarding that part of the program dealing with Germany.

Count von Hertling did not brush aside article 15, on the colonial question. He simply demanded closer examination, with a view of determining the interpretation England would give it. This reserve was justified, in view of the lack of clearness in the Wilsonian text.

On the oriental question, the evacuation of territories and Poland, von Hertling repelled interference by the entente in the Russo-German negotiations. In the west he did not disclaim Germany's intention to evacuate the north of France, pointing out that this territory was for Germany a valuable and legitimate pawn, a theory which was equally applied to Belgium. He did not speak of guarantees, but demanded only that Germany's adversaries renounce territorial aggrandizement at the expense of the German empire.

The significance of the chancellor's pronouncement was that Belgium would be held as a hostage for Austria-Hungary. Finally, says the Journal de Geneve, Count von Hertling meets the demands of article 12 with a promise to the Turks of complete support.

Count Czermin, in turn, repels interference by President Wilson in the internal affairs of the monarchy. On the subject of Italian aspirations and the Serbian and Rumanian questions he contents himself with deciding to give those countries prizes which would permit them to carry on war without risk. On the Polish question, he declares agreement to be easy.

Thus, says the Journal de Geneve, the irreconcilable differences apparently are reduced to Alsace-Lorraine, Austria autonomy and Balkan affairs. While the official position stands thus the Journal de Geneve believes that it is fair to draw on sources unofficial, but authorized, in order to arrive at a better understanding of what the central empires are prepared ultimately to accept. For this purpose an article recently published by Count Andrássy in the Review Politicque Internationale, is cited.

The fact that Andrássy previously was alone in the Hungarian delegation in demanding annexations is pointed out as showing the value of Andrássy's more conciliatory tone in the article.

Andrássy concedes the reconstruction of Serbia in certain conditions, with a port on the Adriatic, and the complete restoration of Rumania, but demands of both countries certain

JUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

By Condo



THE JARR FAMILY

By Roy L. McCardell

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"How time flies when one gets over Jarr." "Everybody will give a party; all parties will give parties," interjected Mr. Jarr.

"But I mean to give a party, no matter who else gives one. It doesn't seem we've had a good time at all since this war began. Then look at the terrible winter, and the endless days and the lightless nights, and everybody knitting except Mrs. Diggers, and she would be knitting only if she fell on the ice and broke her arm."

"Well, the bone is knitting, I hear," murmured Mr. Jarr. "Don't try to be funny on a serious subject," said Mrs. Jarr, coldly. "As I was saying, nobody has the heart to enjoy themselves these days, but everything is so dark I wonder how we get along—I wonder how anybody gets along."

"But we do get along," said Mr. Jarr. "And if time is flying so fast, as we say, it will be all the quicker bringing peace to us."

"Speaking of peace," he added, "the boss and his wife are on speaking terms again, and he's giving a peace dinner to her at the Hotel St. Croesus. We are to go."

"It will cost us a lot of money, and we can't afford it," said Mrs. Jarr. "How will it cost us a lot of money?" asked Mr. Jarr. "It's old man Smith's peace party, and he's footing the bill."

"I know that," replied Mrs. Jarr. "But after the dinner Clara Mudridge-Smith will suggest going to some cabaret. She won't be satisfied with the dinner, or the dancing at the St. Croesus. She always wants to go somewhere else. She's one of those people who go some place for a good time and evidently believe it is to be found some place else. She goes from restaurants and cabarets to roof shows and where not. But she's just the kind of a woman who maneuvers so that some one else besides her husband has to pay any of the bills at least. And yet he may be the only rich person in the party."

"Well, if you feel that way about it we won't go," said Mr. Jarr. "Still, the way the cost of living is going up, we won't have money enough to live anyway, so we might as well have a good time while we can."

"That isn't a sensible way to look at it at all," remarked Mrs. Jarr. "It is Clara Mudridge-Smith and her husband's peace party. I'll take good care her husband pays all the indemnities. There's other people who can maneuver as well as she can. You can say you're sorry, but you left money in your other clothes. You'll be wearing your dress suit."

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DOWN DISPLAY OF GERMAN CARP, CHRIS, A

veteran of the Balkan wars, wrapped a small American flag around each fish.

On Dec. 31 the Mississippi river at St. Louis was at its lowest since the weather bureau began taking gauge readings in 1861.

A curious feature of the recent air raids on London has been the rapid detection by dogs of the presence of hostile aircraft.

There are now in the United States about 4,662,000 enemy aliens, made up as follows: Germany, 2,349,000; Austria, 1,376,000; Hungary, 738,000; Turkey, 138,000; Bulgaria, 11,000.

Many Germans have been made fatter by semistarvation. War conditions are blamed for an outbreak of "edema" (swelling) disease, unknown in peace times. Among the civil population it has affected generally the feet and legs.

Gladys, the twenty-foot python in Lincoln park, Chicago, reached her semi-annual meal recently. Twelve keepers, with the aid of a sausage-stuffing machine and a five-foot pole, treated her to thirty pounds of ground beef, followed by a 12-pound piece of beef.

On Bahrain island, Persian gulf, there is no fresh water, so the inhabitants resort to getting drinking water from the bottling of disease, unknown in peace times. Among the civil population it has affected generally the feet and legs.

The greatest steam locomotive in the world has been put into service by the Baldwin Locomotive works. It is so gigantic that its boilers had to be made flexible at three different joints so that the locomotive could turn around a curve. It is more than 100 feet long and weighs 460 tons. Twenty-four driving wheels, each as high as an average man, afford its traction.

CHATS WITH EDITORS

"Plant a few sheep" is the timely advice of the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

"The Germans are clamoring for peace, but they want a decided large piece of the earth," if the Tulsa Oklahoman understands the situation.

"Let us sell a little more of the products we waste and invest the proceeds in thrift stamps," is the practical advice of the Athens Athenian.

"New York gamblers have raised a defensive fund of \$200,000. New York police see good times ahead," is a remark of the Nashville Banner, which shows how mean a newspaper can be.

"It is noted that the Kaiser hasn't detailed a single one of his half dozen sons for the submarine service," is a significant remark from the Knoxville Journal and Tribune.

The Shelbyville Gazette hits it off this way: "This order of Dr. Garfield has been a real business put on to bring us to our sober senses and to make us think." That's what it has.

"The retailers can, in this emergency, render a great service to their country," remarks the Columbia Herald, whose editor had probably just settled his monthly grocery bill.

The Memphis News-Scimitar very sensibly remarks that "the only thing for each of us to do is to find that which is qualified to do, and do that thing, and when that is finished do something else."

Referring to the candidacy of Gen. Charles T. Cates, the Nashville Review declares that "if nominated and elected, he possesses the ability and honor to maintain the majesty of the senatorship."

Discussing the probability of \$2 wool next season, the Cleveland Herald remarks: "But, and to relate, there are still about nine persons out of ten in Tennessee who think infinitely more of dog hair than of sheep's wool."

The Cleveland Banner expresses our sentiment in declaring that "there has come a sign of relief since the last cold wave missed us, as it was not wanted by any one except perhaps the plumber and coal dealer."

The Newport Plain Talk thinks Hon. T. R. Preston would make a good governor. It declares that "if Tennessee asks him to resign, he will on a paying foundation no mistake will be made in the selection of Preston."

"First the freeze and then the flood; just one darned thing after another until it looks as if all hell broke loose," wails the Memphis Commercial Appeal. Didn't know that freezes and floods are fashionable in the country referred to.

"The thick chocolate brown water we have been using lately, when we could get our hands after another off occasionally, emphasize the necessity of taking some action," in the opinion of the Pulaski Citizen. It would seem so.

Says the Rockwood Times: "Editor Armstrong, of Morristown Mail, has vacated. The people of that city, notwithstanding the fuel shortage, seem to have made it too warm for the aforesaid editor." A form of popular censorship which has, apparently, put Mr. Burleson in the piker class.

"The names of both Senator Andrew L. Todd and Hon. James R. Jettison, of this city, are being widely discussed locally and in other parts of the district in connection with the congressional race," according to the Murreboro News-Banner.